United Nations DP/2017/14

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

Distr.: General
8 February 2017

Original: English

Annual session 2017
30 May to 9 June 2017
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Organizational matters

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2017

Contents

First regular session 2017
(30 January to 3 February 2017, New York)

Number		*Page*
2017/1	Expression of appreciation to Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, 2009–2017	2
2017/2	UNDP evaluation	3
2017/3	Evaluation of the pilot activities carried out under the UNDP direct budget support policy	3
2017/4	Thematic evaluation of UNFPA support to adolescents and youth 2008-2015, and management response	4
2017/5	Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2015	4
2017/6	Elaboration of the UNDP strategic plan, 2018-2021	6
2017/7	Elaboration of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021	6
2017/8	Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2017	7

17-02069 (E)

Please recycle

2017/1

Expression of appreciation to Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, 2009 - 2017

The Executive Board

Noting with regret that Helen Clark will depart from her position as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, effective 19 April 2017,

Recognizing that Ms. Helen Clark has been a champion of development and institutional reform at UNDP since assuming the position of Administrator in 2009,

Acknowledging that her appointment at UNDP coincided with a sharp increase in volatility around the world in many areas, including the downturn in the global economy, increasing extreme weather events and disasters and refugee/migration challenges,

Recognizing Ms. Helen Clark's work to refocus and reform UNDP to make it a more modern organization able to meet these new challenges and thrive in a changing world,

Also recognizing Ms. Helen Clark's leadership to make UNDP the most transparent aid organization in the world and to make it a leaner, more focused and more efficient organization,

Acknowledging the work of Ms. Helen Clark to refocus UNDP under one vision: to help countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion,

Also acknowledging her work to provide the organization with the tools it needs to confront future challenges and to forge wide-ranging partnerships,

Further acknowledging the tireless drive of Ms. Helen Clark in the critical work of UNDP towards poverty eradication, as well as the progress made by UNDP in its crucial work on building countries' resilience to climate change, conflict and other crises so that sustainable development gains could be secured,

Recognizing with deep appreciation that Ms. Helen Clark made the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals the focus of UNDP programmes,

Acknowledging the efforts made by Ms. Helen Clark to advocate on behalf of the poor and vulnerable, particularly women, people living with HIV/AIDs and migrants and refugees,

Recognizing the commitment, dedication and leadership shown by Ms. Helen Clark in ensuring a strengthened, effective and efficient role for UNDP in the United Nations system and in strengthening the role of UNDP, particularly at the country level,

1. *Commends* Helen Clark for her effective management of the United Nations Development Programme from 2009 to 2017;

2. *Expresses* its sincere gratitude to Helen Clark for her outstanding leadership of UNDP in its contributions to four major conferences in 2015: the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, in Sendai, Japan; the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, in New York; and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Paris, France;

3. *Extends* its warmest good wishes to Helen Clark for success in her future endeavours.

3 February 2017

2017/2
UNDP Evaluation

The Executive Board

With regard to the evaluation of the UNDP contribution to anti-corruption and addressing drivers of corruption (DP/2017/4) and the management response thereto (DP/2017/5):

1. *Takes note* of the evaluation, and acknowledges its conclusion that UNDP has made a positive contribution to national efforts to reduce corruption and address the drivers of corruption in countries where UNDP is engaged in this issue;

2. *Encourages* UNDP to address corruption risks to development as recommended in the evaluation;

3. *Requests* UNDP to take the evaluation recommendations into account in the next strategic plan and future programming, including at country level, where relevant;

4. *Encourages* UNDP to continue to strengthen national ownership and leadership on anti-corruption;

With regard to the evaluation of disability-inclusive development at UNDP (DP/2017/6) and the management response thereto (DP/2017/7):

5. *Takes note* of the evaluation, acknowledging its conclusions and recommendations and the management response from UNDP;

6. *Takes note* of the finding that UNDP is well positioned to play a prominent role in supporting countries in implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

7. *Encourages* UNDP to ensure that in its next strategic plan, support to countries on the disability aspects of development is given greater prominence, and that UNDP work in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the disability aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals;

8. *Underscores* the importance of incorporating reference to disability in the forthcoming updating of UNDP corporate strategies, in particular the gender equality strategy;

9. *Urges* UNDP to assess which of its facilities are not yet accessible to persons with disabilities and to take steps to adapt as many of them as possible, and to make a concerted effort to employ more persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

10. *Underscores* the importance of effective follow-up to the evaluation recommendations and requests UNDP to take them into account in future programming;

3 February 2017

2017/3
Evaluation of the pilot activities carried out under the UNDP direct budget support policy

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the key evaluation findings from the two pilot projects in Burkina Faso and Nepal, as summarized in document DP/2017/10;

2. *Recognizes* that a primary role of UNDP in sector budget support should be to support national capacity-building and policy development;

3. *Takes note of* the current and anticipated demand for UNDP engagement in sector budget support in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and emphasizes that such engagement should be on an a limited basis and be based on a clearly expressed demand from the programme country;

4. *Recalls* Executive Board decision 2015/1, and encourages UNDP to continue to ensure that the specific fiduciary risks associated with these modalities are assessed, existing safeguards continue to be applied and improved on, and monitoring and audit ptocesses are undertaken on a timely basis;

5. *Recommends* continuation of this funding mechanism as part of the options available to UNDP, on the basis of lessons learned from the evaluations noted in paragraph 1 above and relevant audits to date, subject to regular review by the Executive Board.

3 February 2017

2017/4
Thematic evaluation on UNFPA support to adolescents and youth (2008-2015)

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the thematic evaluation on UNFPA support to adolescents and youth, 2008-2015 (DP/FPA/2017/CRP.1) and the management response (DP/FPA/2017/CRP.2);

2. *Requests* UNFPA to take into account the recommendations of the evaluation in its strategic and operational response, and to include an update on progress at the annual session of 2018.

3 February 2017

2017/5
Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2015

The Executive Board

1. *Recognizes* the high-risk environments in which UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS as well as their implementing partners operate, and requests the entities to continue to strengthen measures to prevent, detect and respond to fraud.

With regard to UNDP:

2. *Takes note* of the report (DP/2017/11) on the actions taken by UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the further actions planned to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the financial period that ended on 31 December 2015, as well as recommendations from prior years;

3. *Notes* the 2015 unqualified audit opinions issued by the United Nations Board of Auditors for both UNDP UNCDF;

4. *Takes note* of the progress made by UNDP in the final evaluation of the top eight audit-related priorities in 2014–2015;

5. *Supports* the ongoing efforts of UNDP management in addressing the revised top seven audit-related management priorities for the 2016–2017 biennium and in implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 2015;

6. *Encourages* UNDP to continue to strengthen programme management, oversight and reporting, including by improving programme quality and active risk management, in particular at country level, and to monitor the effectiveness of measures taken in that regard;

7. *Further encourages* UNDP to continue its efforts to enhance oversight and management of implementing partners, including ensuring compliance with UNDP policies and procedures, and assurance requirements, and urges UNDP to closely monitor implementation of the revised harmonized approach to cash transfers framework;

8. *Encourages* the continued efforts of UNDP to uncover and prevent procurement irregularities and other fraudulent practices and improve actions for recovery of funds, and underscores the importance of protecting whistle-blowers and ensuring that whistle-blower protections are both robust and well known to all staff members;

With regard to UNFPA

9. *Takes note* of the report (DP/FPA/2017/1) on the actions taken by UNFPA and the new measures planned by the organization for timely implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the financial period that ended on 31 December 2015;

10. *Notes* the 2015 unqualified audit opinion issued by the Board of Auditors;

11. *Encourages* UNFPA to continue improving its internal control systems, especially with regard to risk management, including the need to develop risk mitigation strategies globally and at country level;

With regard to UNOPS

12. *Takes note* of the report (DP/OPS/2017/1) on the progress in the implementation of the various recommendations made for the year ended 31 December 2015 and the efforts currently in progress to ensure that the remaining recommendations are successfully implemented;

13. *Notes* the overall conclusion of the Board of Auditors that UNOPS has increased value of project implementation at an average of 14 per cent per year since 2012, despite the challenging environment in which it operates, and encourages UNOPS to continue to enhance its risk and compliance framework, including analysing and managing the risk exposure of projects;

14. *Acknowledges* that because the recommendations were issued to UNOPS towards the end of July 2016 and because many of them require long-term attention, UNOPS will need to work beyond the financial year 2016 to implement them successfully.

3 February 2017

2017/6
Elaboration of the UNDP strategic plan, 2018-2021

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the preparatory work done and the various informal meetings with the Executive Board on the process of elaboration of the UNDP strategic plan, 2018-2021;

2. *Requests* UNDP to engage constructively with UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to ensure a coherent approach of the four strategic plans (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Women);

3. *Also requests* UNDP, in line with General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, to elaborate in its strategic plan on how it plans to engage in coherent and integrated support, as called for in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard, further requests UNDP to work collaboratively with UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women on the development of a specific chapter in its strategic plan, outlining a common approach in supporting Member States towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with each entity's mandate;

4. *Encourages* UNDP to collaborate with UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women to continue to harmonize their approaches to results reporting on their strategic plans, which, inter alia, will help to capture their contributions to collective outcomes;

5. *Requests* UNDP to provide all relevant documents at least 10 days prior to any consultation.

3 February 2017

2017/7
Elaboration of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the preparatory work done and the various informal meetings with the Executive Board on the process of elaboration of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021;

2. *Requests* UNFPA to engage constructively with UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to ensure a coherent approach of the four strategic plans (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Women);

3. *Also requests* UNFPA, in line with General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, to elaborate in its strategic plan on how it plans to engage in coherent and integrated support, as called for in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard, further requests UNFPA to work collaboratively with UNDP, UNICEF and UN-Women on the development of a specific chapter in its strategic plan, outlining a common approach in supporting Member States towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with each entity's mandate;

4. *Encourages* UNFPA to collaborate with UNDP, UNICEF and UN-Women to continue to harmonize their approaches to results reporting on their strategic plans, which, inter alia, will help to capture their contributions to collective outcomes;

5. *Requests* UNFPA to provide all relevant documents at least 10 days prior to any consultation.

3 February 2017

2017/8
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2017

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its first regular session 2017, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

Elected the following members of the Bureau for 2017:

President:	H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen (Denmark)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. Omar Annakou (Libya)
Vice-President:	Mr. Talal Aljamali (Yemen)
Vice-President:	H.E. Ms. Laura Elena Flores Herrera (Panama)
Vice-President:	Ms. Carolina Popovici (Republic of Moldova)

Adopted the agenda and approved the workplan for its first regular session 2017 (DP/2017/L.1);

Approved the report of the second regular session 2016 (DP/2017/1);

Adopted the annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2017 (DP/2017/CRP.1);

Approved the tentative workplan for the annual session 2017;

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining sessions of the Executive Board in 2017:

Annual session:	30 May to 9 June 2017
Second regular session:	5 to 11 September 2017.

UNDP segment

Adopted decision 2017/1, expression of appreciation to Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, 2009-2017;

Item 2

UNDP country programmes and related matters

Approved the following country programmes in accordance with decision 2014/7:

Africa: Botswana (DP/DCP/BWA/2); Chad (DP/DCP/TCD/3);
Latin America and the Caribbean: Haiti (DP/DCP/HTI/3);

Item 3
Evaluation

Adopted decision 2017/2 on the evaluation of the UNDP contribution to anti-corruption and addressing drivers of corruption and management response; and the evaluation of disability-inclusive development at UNDP and management response;

Item 4
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2017/3 on the evaluation of the pilot activities carried out under the direct budget support policy;

UNFPA segment

Item 5
UNFPA: Country programmes and related matters

Approved the following UNFPA country programmes in accordance with decision 2014/7:

Botswana (DP/FPA/CPD/BWA/6); and Haiti (DP/FPA/CPD/HTI/6);

Approved the second one-year extension of the country programme for Somalia (DP/FPA/2017/3);

Item 6
Evaluation

Adopted decision 2017/4 on the thematic evaluation on UNFPA support to adolescents and youth (2008-2015);

UNOPS segment

Heard the UNOPS Executive Director give a statement;

Joint segment

Item 8
Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

Adopted decision 2017/5 on the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, related to the following reports: UNDP and United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF): Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2015 (DP/2017/11); UNFPA: Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2015: Status of implementation of recommendations (DP/FPA/2017/1); and UNOPS: Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2015 (DP/OPS/2017/1);

Item 9
Follow-up to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Programme Coordinating Board Meeting

Took note of the report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (DP/2017/12-DP/FPA/2017/2);

Item 10
Other matters

Adopted decision 2017/6 on the elaboration of the UNDP strategic plan, 2018-2021.
Adopted decision 2017/7 on the elaboration of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021.

Also held the following briefings, informal consultations and special events:

UNDP

Briefing on the road map to the UNCDF Strategic Framework, 2018-2021;
Briefing on the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021;
Briefing on the road map to the United Nations Volunteers Strategic Framework, 2018-2021;

UNFPA

Briefing on the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2018-2021;
Briefing on UNFPA humanitarian response funding;
Special event: Data systems within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.

TENTATIVE WORKPLAN
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
ANNUAL SESSION 2017
(30 May - 9 June 2017, New York)

Day, Date	*Time*	*Item*	*Subject*
Tuesday, 30 May	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the session • Adoption of the report of the first regular session 2017 **UNDP SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR
		2	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR • Cumulative review of the strategic plan and annual report of the Administrator for 2016 • Report of UNDP on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2016 • Statistical annex
	3 – 6 p.m.	2	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR (continued)
		3	FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS • Cumulative review of the UNDP integrated budget, 2014-2017
	6 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Wednesday, 31 May	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	4	UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN, 2018-2021 • Draft UNDP strategic plan, 2018-2021
	3 – 5.30 p.m.	5	GENDER EQUALITY AT UNDP • Annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy in 2016
		6	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT • Update on Human Development Report consultations (General Assembly resolution 57/264)
		7	UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Presentation and approval of country programme documents • Extensions of country programmes
	6 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Thursday, 1 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	8	EVALUATION • Annual report on evaluation and management response • Evaluation of the UNDP strategic plan, global and regional programmes, and management response • Assessment and recommendations of UNDP institutional effectiveness and management response
	3 – 6 p.m.	9	UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND • Cumulative review of the UNCDF strategic framework, 2014-2017, and annual report on results for 2016
	6 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Friday, 2 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNOPS SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

		04	[illegible] THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • Annual report of the Executive Director • Report of UNOPS on the recommendations of the joint Inspection Unit in 2016
	3 – 6 p.m.		**UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)**
		4	[illegible], 2018-2021 (cont'd) • Draft UNDP strategic plan, 2018-2021
Monday, 5 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNFPA SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
		05	[illegible] THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • Progress report on implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014-2017 • Statistical and financial review, 2016 • Report of UNFPA on recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2016
	3 – 5.30 p.m.	06	[illegible] THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (cont'd)
		11	EVALUATION • Annual report of the UNFPA Evaluation Office 2016, and management response
	5.30 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Tuesday, 6 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	02	[illegible], 2018-2021 • Draft UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021
	3 – 6 p.m.	09	[illegible] AND RELATED MATTERS • Country programme documents • Evaluations of country programmes
	6 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Wednesday, 7 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		UNFPA Special Event: *Programming in the EECA region*
	3 – 6 p.m.	02	[illegible], 2018-2021 (cont'd) • Draft UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021
Thursday, 8 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**JOINT SEGMENT**
		15	INTERNAL AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT • Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations, and management responses
		16	[illegible] OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS ETHICS OFFICES • Reports of the Ethics Offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on activities for 2016, and management responses
		17	[illegible] • Reports on field visits
	3 – 6 p.m.	18	OTHER MATTERS • Adoption of decisions

		1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the tentative workplan for the second regular session 2017 • Closing of the session
Friday, 9 June			